

House Bill 673
February 20, 2007
Presented by Chris Smith
House Fish, Wildlife & Parks Committee

EXHIBIT 3
DATE 2-20-07
HB 673

Mr. Chairman and committee members, for the record I am Chris Smith, Chief of Staff of Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP).

During the 2005 Session, the legislature passed a bill allowing nonresident children of residents to purchase certain fishing and hunting licenses at double the amount charged to residents for an equivalent license. Proof of eligibility includes a birth certificate verifying the applicant was born in Montana, a high school diploma or GED certificate from a school in Montana (including home schooling), and evidence that the applicant's parent is a Montana resident. Eligible applicants may purchase the license for up to six years after receiving a diploma or GED certificate. During LY06, the first year this law was in effect, FWP sold three of these licenses.

HB 673 will broaden the eligibility requirements to include not just a birth certificate but also proof of 15 years of residency and will expand the eligibility period from 6 years to 15 years. Because of the minimal participation to date, FWP believes the proposed changes in this legislation may increase the number of licenses sold but we do not know how many more of these licenses might be sold. We do not believe these changes will have any significant impacts to the agency.

I'm available to answer any questions you may have.